



November 15, 2006

Dear Education Summit Participant,

Thank you for taking the time to participate in today's Education Summit.

Six federal agencies have embarked on a very exciting initiative at Fort Detrick. We have established the National Interagency Confederation for Biological Research (NICBR) with the goal of working collaboratively to enhance our capacity for research and technology development, with the ultimate goal of delivering new products to protect and improve health. A subset of the NICBR is the National Interagency Biodefense Campus, which focuses on development of medical products and countermeasures to protect the nation from bioterrorism.

Both the confederation and the biodefense campus represent a forward-looking enhancement of our nation's science and technology infrastructure right here in Frederick County. However, as we look ahead to greater scientific capabilities, we know we will need a scientifically literate and proficient work force to fully capitalize on these new resources. Accordingly, each of the partner agencies of the confederation has accepted "building the bench," or educational outreach, as a critically important investment.

Today's adults have witnessed incredible advances in science and technology over the past half century and we know that the pace of technological change is likely to accelerate as our children enter the work force. Each of the leaders attending today's summit would probably cite educational opportunity as the one most important enabling factor in their productive careers. The purpose of today's meeting is to partner with academia and business so as to provide ample educational opportunities for enabling tomorrow's scientists.

On behalf of the National Cancer Institute, the National Institutes of Health, the Department of Homeland Security, the Department of Agriculture, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and the U.S. Army Medical Research and Materiel Command, I welcome you to our Education Summit and, again, thank you for participating.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Eric B. Schoomaker".

Eric B. Schoomaker, M.D., Ph.D.  
Major General, U.S. Army  
Commanding General